

**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

We do hereby set forth the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing that no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



December 29, 2019

**Because we put God first, we are dedicated
to caring for creation, for human diversity,
for the next generations, and for each other.**

*First Reformed Church
8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518)377-2201 www.1stReformed.com*

Welcome to First Reformed

Absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

If you are a visitor, we hope you feel at home here. Please pick up and fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate. After the service please join us for refreshments.

Parking

You may park right out in front of the church in the 'no parking' area' (only) if you have trouble getting around.

Childcare on Sunday

Childcare for infants through Pre-k is available from 9:45am until noon downstairs in the Kinderwyk Nursery.

Youth Ed & Nurture

Following the Children's Message all children are invited downstairs to the Youth Ed & Nurture Level to participate in Dwell Kids Class (3rd-8th grade) or Young Children and Worship (K-2nd grade); parents pick up their children there at 11:15am.

Children's Music After Worship

Music for kids is offered in the upstairs music level between 11:15-12pm.

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders called 'elders' walk in together and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

Helping Others Focus

It will be easier for God to get through if we silence our cell phones. God can always call you later.

After Worship

Typically, after worship, people stop for a chat and a cookie in Covenant Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. All are welcome.

Open Communion

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

Joining the Congregation

To become a member of the congregation, there is a one-time orientation, a meeting with the governing board, and a reception in worship. If you are interested please fill out a white pew card.



Hearing Assistance

We have a hearing aid loop system that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

Non-Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911



*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from Our Song of Hope*)

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, He was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and our instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of our God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in Him.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight
on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west
shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!*

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last
from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,

You will show your might,
put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power
to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread,
ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod
can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12 (pg 2)

Kristin Lion

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23 (pg 2)

SERMON

Dreams of Danger and Deliverance

Daniel Carlson

*HYMN

Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

Gentle Joseph heard a warning from an angel in the night;
valiant Mary, maiden mother, roused from sleep, prepared for flight:
thus the Christ-child's family lived out what the prophet had foretold,
that he might be called from Egypt as God's people were of old.

**Targets of a tyrant's army, seeking safety, fleeing strife,
leaving house and land and kindred, spurred by dreams of peaceful life;
through the desert of unknowing and the night of doubt they went,
guided by God's promised presence, by that trust made confident.**

**Give us, God, such faith and courage when we move from place to place,
and to those who come among us, make us channels of your grace.
Let us see in every stranger refugees from Bethlehem,
help us offer each one welcome and receive the Christ in them.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Hunger Carol

Traditional Scottish tune,

Words: Shirley Erena Murray; Tune: Taladh Chriosda
adapted by A. Norton-Levering

Child of joy and peace, born to every race
by your star, the wise will know you, East
and West their homage show you, look
into your face, child of joy and peace.

Son of poverty, shame us till we see
self-concerned, how we deny you,
by our greed we crucify you
on a Christmas tree, Son of poverty.

Born among the poor on a stable floor,
cold and raw, you know our hunger, weep
our tears and cry our anger – yet you tell
us more, born among the poor:

Every child needs bread, till the world is
fed. you give bread, your hands enable all
to gather round one table
Christmas must be shared, every child
needs bread.

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

*HYMN

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll
to shatter all hate and injustice.**

**In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prayers of the People

As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanksgiving members of our church who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Jean Collins, Jean Bowman, Doris Willard, Mildred Altvater, Thomas Taft, Almy Coggeshall, Burton Dearing, Esther Eveleth

Entered into Eternal Rest

Sandy Moynihan – Dec 20, 2019

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

Sign up for flowers in the church office where you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for two bouquets. You may send your check payable to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Music Notes

Musicians in the folks band include: Rachel Rose and Patti Melita, singers; Bob Lemmerman, banjo; Daniel Carlson and Chestnut, guitar; John Norton, melodica; Abby Norton-Levering, fiddle; Max Caplan, piano; Daniel Gleason, percussion.

The Ninth Beverwyck Anthology

The newest edition of The Beverwyck Anthology is out! Single copies or a gift set of all the issues (1-9) can be found in the Johnson Library.

Green Steps

New Year Habits: As this year ends and we roll into the next, take a moment to reflect on any changes you made throughout the holidays. Rethinking our consumptive ways and changing our habits will help us to step greenly in all we do.

Nostalgia Night - Today

College aged and slightly-older siblings are gathering for a night of nostalgia and catching up with old friends. There will be pizza, sardine hide & seek, weird group building activities, spooky steeple tour, and perhaps special guest. Today at 6pm meet in Friendship Hall. Contact Lisa Etkin for questions or suggestions: 1streformedmvc@gmail.com.

Epiphany Party - Jan 4

At our annual festive inter-generational event we gather to: feast together, discover magi, follow the star, recall the sacred story, bless the home, and 'round a bonfire pray for those upon whom we ask the light of Christ to shine. There's no sign up--but please show up with a gift of some favorite food and/or drink to share as you are able! It all happens from 5-7pm at Andy and Heather Chestnut's home, 1286 Wendell Ave, Schenectady.

Offering Envelopes

2020 Offering Envelopes are available in the church office. There are extra available if anyone needs them.

Coming Up

More information is in the newsletter at the back of the sanctuary.

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| Sun, Dec 29 | 9am | Ukuleles For All Ages | Music Level |
| | 9:45am | Kinderwyk Childcare | Forest Nursery |
| | 10am | Worship | Sanctuary |
| | 10:15am | Dwell Kids' Class | Mountain room |
| | 10:15am | Young Children and Worship | River room |
| | 11am | Care & Prayer | Dykstra Chapel |
| | 5pm | Jazz Vespers | Covenant Hall |
| | 6pm | Youth Group Nostalgia Night | Friendship Hall |
| Mon, Dec 30 | 6pm | Community Yoga | Covenant Hall |
| Wed, Jan 1 | New Year's Day – Office Closed | | |
| | 11:30am | Wednesday Lunch | Covenant Hall |
| Sat, Jan 4 | 5pm | Epiphany Party | Chestnut's House |
| Sun, Jan 5 | 9am | Ukuleles For All Ages | Music Level |
| | 9:45am | Kinderwyk Childcare | Forest Nursery |
| | 10am | Worship/ Communion | Sanctuary |
| | 10:15am | Dwell Kids' Class | Mountain room |
| | 10:15am | Young Children and Worship | River room |
| | 11:15am | Children's Music | Roof Top room |
| | 3pm | Introductions to FRC | Church Office |
| | 5pm | Jazz Vespers | Covenant Hall |

| Sunday Volunteers | This Week | Next Week |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Bookshop | Committee Member | Committee Member |
| Children & Worship | Elsa Hjelmar | Mary Carlson |
| Counting Deacons | Christina Jones, Kristin Lion | Gay Doolittle, Brandon Stabler |
| Dwell Kids Teacher | James Gonda | Dave Pizzolo |
| Forum | Coffee & Conversation | Illuminating Community Solar II by Dan Gleason & Creation Care Team |
| Jazz Vespers | Wayne Hawkins, solo piano | Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass |
| Kinderwyk | Lian Drisgula, Ellie Rowland | Claire Hughes, Liz Gleason |
| Liturgist | | Daniel Carlson |
| Preacher | Daniel Carlson | Bill Levering |
| Processing Elders | Karen Gonda, Del Pierce, Birdie Blackmer, Art Casey, Mary Jewett, | Joanne Arnold, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis |
| Reader | Kristin Lion | Cathy Lewis |
| Refreshments | Gay & Joe Doolittle | Fellowship |
| Ushers | Art Shultes, Hendrick & Joanne Arnold, Joan Lindsay | Mike Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal |